REPARING TO OUIT

Vance Held Top Contender to Fill Gilpatric's Post

By JACK RAYMOND

Special to The New York Times WASHINGTON, Oct. 3--Dep-

Derense Secretary Roswell L. Gilpatric, who had planned to return to private business last spring, is now scheduled to leave the Pentagon around Christmas.

Mr. Gilpatric, a lawyer, stayed at his post because of the TFX airplane controversy, in which he has been a leading figure.

He participated in awarding the contract for the TFX (tactical fighter, experimental) to the General Dynamics Corporation despite the recommendations of military leaders who favored the Boeing Company.

Mr. Gilpatric has been awaiting a call to testify before the the Pentagon is expected. Sto-Senate Permanent Subcommit phen Ailes, Under Secretary of tee on Investigations, whose the Army, is understood to have bearings on the contract have set a date to end his present been suspended while the pane assignment. Like Mr. Gilpatric, is hearing testimony on syndine is a lawyer. cated crime.

Nitze's Chances Decline

One consequence of Mr. Gilpatric's delayed departure, according to an authoritative of Air Force materiel, has taken cording to an authoritative of Air Force materiel, has taken source, is that Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul H. Nitze position with Litton Industries Inc., in California. is no longer the leading contender for the post of Deputy Defense Secretary.



DELAYS RESIGNATION: Roswell L. Gilpatric, the Deputy Defense Secretary

Alles to Give Un Post

Another major departure from

No successor has yet been named for Assistant Sectary of the Air Force Joseph S. Imirie, who left the Pentagon Monday.

Few Major Changes

efense Secretary.

Until now, the civilian high
The No. 2 man in the defense command of the Defense De-

The No. 2 man in the defense Department is a deputy in practice as well as by title while the No. 2 man in other department has been spared many important changes since the Kennets of Cabinet rank is known as under secretary. The unusual authority of the Deputy Defense Secretary permits him to make important decisions even when the Secretary is not absent.

Mr. Nitze, who is head of the Pentagon's International Security Affairs Division, was considered last spring as the certain succesor to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, and he was expected to be named Deputy Secretary first. It appears, however, that Secretary of the Army Cyrus R. Vance is now the leading contender for Deputy Secretary. The decision by President Kennedy Administration took over in 1961.

Secretary McNamara, for example, has already served longer than any Secretary of Charles E. Wilson in the Eisenhower Administration. Mr. McElroy, who served 26 months in office, compared with Mr. Wilson's 56. Except for Neil H. McElroy, who served 26 months, none of the six other men to hold the job since it was reated in 1947 has served onger than 18 months.

Mr. Gilpatric, who joined the Administration with Secretary McNamara in January, 1961, has already stayed in his post longer than any other Deputy Defense Secretary, is expected to be made shortly.

Mr. Gilpatric is expected to be made shortly.

ecome a senior partner in the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City.

& Johnson, was named Under

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Mr. Ailes, a partner in the Washington law firm of Steptoe

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